



Prayers & Liturgy

6-8 September 21024 • Rydges North Sydney

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Wednesday, 28th August

St Augustine

OPENING PRAYER/WORDS BY ARCHBISHOP O'REGAN

GOSPEL

Matthew 23:27-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are the children of those who murdered the prophets.

Jesus said, 'Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You who alike whitewashed tombs that look handsome on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every kind of corruption. In the same way you appear to the people on the outside like good honest men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

'Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You who build the sepulchres of the prophets and decorate the tombs of holy men, saying, "We would never have joined in shedding the blood of the prophets, had we lived in our fathers' day." So! Your own evidence tells against you! You are the sons of those who murdered the prophets! Very well then, finish off the work that your fathers began.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS

Archbishop O'Regan:

Jesus, you are the Word of the Father and through the Spirit you broke open for us the word of the Kingdom of God:
(delegates say) make us fertile soil for your word that we may produce a rich harvest.

1. **The joy of your Gospel gives hope for our mission:** let us read the signs of our time so that we may communicate truth and purpose to our world.
2. **You encouraged your disciples to seek integrity in all that they did:** keep us honest in our work, responsible in our communications and respectful toward our colleagues.
3. **You filled the heart of St Augustine with a spirit of repentance and a longing for you:** may we never forget that our work of communication is a mission of service to the people of today.
4. **The word you speak is a light for our steps:** let us walk with humility, mercy and justice

Thursday, 29th August

The Passion of St John the Baptist

GOSPEL

Mark 6:22-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist on a dish

When the daughter of this same Herodias came in and danced, she delighted Herod and his guests, so the king said to the girl, 'Ask me anything you like and I will give it you.' And he swore her an oath, 'I will give you anything you ask, even half my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What shall I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the Baptist.' The girl hurried straight back to the king and made her request, 'I want you to give me John the Baptist's head, here and now, on a dish.' The king was deeply distressed, but thinking of the oaths he had sworn and of his guests, he was reluctant to break his word to her. So the king at once sent one of the bodyguards with orders to bring John's head. The man went off and beheaded him in prison; then he brought the head on a dish and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. When John's disciples heard about this, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS

Archbishop O'Regan:

John the Baptist prepared the way for you Jesus, and gave his life in sacrifice for truth: let truth guide us in all our works of communication, so that our lives are given in your service.

1. **To stand for truth requires singleness of heart:** may be we faithful in all that we do, shining your light, O Christ, upon our broken world.
2. **The beauty of our world is destroyed by corruption and lies:** let our Catholic media promote your goodness, Jesus, by the dedication and integrity of our efforts.
3. **We are called by the Spirit to walk together for the good of humanity:** Jesus, be our leader and companion so that we communicate your joy and peace.
4. So many journalists, photographers, film makers and other media workers have died bringing the ugly truth of war to our world: give them an eternal joy in beholding your glory, O Lord.

Friday, 30th August

Friday of the 21st Ordinary Week

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS

Archbishop O'Regan:

Jesus, Bridegroom of your Church, lavishing love upon us all: hear our prayer for the many works of Catholic Communications.

1. **You show us how to serve others, watchful, dedicated, consistent:** give us a spirit of wonder and hope as we communicate your goodness to our world.
2. Jesus, you touched the sick with healing, showed mercy to sinners, taught those hungry for your word: make us your joyful servants that we may bring comfort, peace and good news to our world.
3. The disciples struggled to understand your parables, actions, and message: through your Spirit give us clarity of thought, simplicity of expression, and kindness in our actions.
4. Jesus, Beloved of the Father, anointed in the Spirit, sacrificed for all humanity: confirm us all in our vocation as communicators of your truth and joy.